



APPLICATION BRIEF 1005

The Difficulty of Specifying Battery Room Signage

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Introduction:

Signage for battery rooms is an important requirement to satisfy fire codes, occupational safety regulations, "Right to Know" standards and to potentially save lives.

Do I need all these signs?

The question is what signs are required for battery rooms? Multiple building, fire and safety codes and regulations specify requirements for signs. These include IFC, IBC, NFPA, OSHA, EPA, CFR and local municipalities and jurisdictions focused on hazardous material, lead acid batteries, labor laws and environmental protection.

What is the impact of improper signs?

Signs communicate hazards and imminent dangers to personnel to prevent a potential accident. The impact of improper, inadequate or no signage could result in:

- Physical harm to personnel
- Fines and citations
- Litigation and court costs

What signs are required?

Signs are very inexpensive compared to the costs associated with non-compliance and accidents. The recommended signs should be posted at each access point for battery rooms.

BATTERY ROOM SIGN

- IFC 608 & 609
- NFPA 1 Chapter 52

Model fire codes IFC 608 (Flooded Batteries), IFC 609 (VRLA Batteries) and NFPA 1 Chapter 52 state that doors into electrical equipment rooms or buildings containing stationary battery systems shall be provided with approved signs. The signs shall state that:

- The room contains lead-acid battery systems.
- The room contains energized electrical circuits.
- The battery electrolyte solutions, where present, are corrosive liquids.

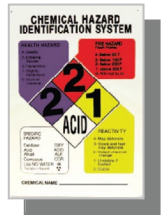


In addition, battery cabinets shall have signs within the cabinet that indicate the relevant electrical, chemical and fire hazards.

CHEMICAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 29CFR1910
- NFPA 704

NFPA 704 defines the chemical hazard using a "fire diamond" used by emergency personnel to quickly and easily identify the risks posed by the hazardous materials.



EYE WASH SIGN

- 29CFR1910

OSHA's 29CFR1910.151(c) specifies eyewash stations for battery rooms and follows the requirements of ANSI Z358.1-2004 standard which specifies that eyewash station area be identified by a visible sign.



DANGER SIGNS –

- HAZARDOUS AREA
- NO SMOKING
- HIGH VOLTAGE
- 29CFR1910

Danger signs are general sign requirements to meet OSHA 29CFR1910 regulation. These are used as appropriate to meet the "Right-to-Know" Act.



How do I benefit?

The goal is to prevent the high cost of accidents and employee injury. The small cost for signs provides a large benefit in reducing the chance of injury. Signs are a must for compliance, corporate safety programs and minimizing the risk of litigation.

Conclusion:

Signs are inexpensive compared to the potential costs associated with physical harm. Signs are the employer's responsibility and regulated by OSHA and applicable fire and safety codes.

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